

POOR WATER MANAGEMENT AND FREEDOM: INTERCONNECTED AREAS

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Introduction. The shortage of potable water supply has become a rapidly growing obstacle for the social development of the Central Asian regions. Kazakhstan is not the exception. One third of the population has access to improperly purified water while more than 500,000 people have no access to safe water supply. Lack of potable water supply has led to increasing number of infectious diseases, depopulation, and unhealthy environment in the Southern regions of the country. It is pivotal to argue that the lack of informative democracy in Kazakhstan has negative drawbacks on the policy-making that has already resulted in the diminishing legitimacy of the current regime by rising number of rebellion in the region because the government produces water policies that does not speak on the behalf of all people of Kazakhstan. To prove how the lack of informative democracy limits the government to produce coherent water management policies, we will propagate that the water policy can be only effective by opening information spectrum to allow better collection of information.

Materials and methods. To reach the results, we have used the historical databases on the water situation in Kazakhstan and neighboring countries. First, we implemented historical analysis from the Soviet time till present Kazakhstan. Second, we have investigated interviews with local inhabitants of the vulnerable areas and their attitude toward the water degradation in the regions. Also, we held an interview with the experts. Thirdly, we have investigated different policy solutions and come up with the informative policy.

Results and discussion. Since the government of Kazakhstan did not yet apply the informative policy that we have proposed, we do not know the results of our solution.

Conclusions. The government will have to reinforce and recreate political institutions since freedom of expression and mass media will require participation of civil society members while the second policy will require structural innovations where municipal authorities will control and regulate water consumption. Thirdly, two policies are time-consuming. It will take more than five years to accomplish these policies because they are long-term oriented and need deep reconstruction. However, benefits outweigh costs. Importantly, if the Nazarbayev government will be able to facilitate these policies it is highly likely that this regime will be supported not only at the regional level but at the national level.

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